AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A disk medium managing method for managing data to be recorded on a disk medium by file format and representing a hierarchical structure by directories, comprising:

pre-defining ~~wherein~~ an area on the disk medium ~~is ensured~~ as a directory, and

~~to limit~~ recording ~~location of~~ files and directories within the area defined as ~~under~~ the directory.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A disk medium managing method as defined in claim 1, ~~wherein it is capable of~~ further comprising hierarchically pre-defining ~~defining~~ a further directory ~~for ensuring~~ in an area within the area ~~ensured~~ pre-defined on the disk medium as the directory.

Claim 3 (currently amended) A disk managing method as defined in claim 1, ~~wherein it is capable of~~ _further comprising_ selectively deciding whether the area is ~~ensured~~ _pre-defined_ on the disk medium or not.

Claim 4 (currently amended) A disk medium managing method as defined in claim 1, wherein hierarchical definition of the directory for ~~ensuring~~ _pre-defining_ the area on the disk medium is restricted by that the directory must be defined under a directory having ~~ensured an~~ _a pre-defined_ area on the disk medium.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A disk medium managing method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the area ~~ensured~~ _pre-defined_ on the disk medium is continuously arranged thereon.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A disk medium managing method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, ~~wherein it is capable of~~ _further comprising_ calculating a maximal time of seeking data in the areas ~~ensured~~ _pre-defined_ on the disk medium.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A disk medium managing method as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, ~~wherein it is capable of~~ further comprising specifying a maximal allowable time of seeking data in an area to be ~~ensured~~ pre-defined on the disk medium and calculating an area on the disk medium satisfying the specified allowable seek time.